

# Mayor Mancuso tells the Mirror: 'I'm quitting'

By NAN WATERS

The Mayor of Carbondale will resign from his post as chief executive of the Pioneer City at the end of November.

In a telephone conversation with this reporter at 4:45 p.m. Monday, Mayor Fred Mancuso confirmed that "the rumor has some substance, and I will be making a definite announcement in a press release the end of November. I've been considering this and kicking it around for a long time."

Mancuso became Mayor of Carbondale in 1977 upon the death of the late Dr. A. J. Kaufman, and was elected to a full four-year term in November, 1979.

Mancuso's admission to the MIRROR of his imminent resignation came after weeks of speculation among residents of the city, and rumors printed in the public press that he was considering resigning.

One area newspaper reported that a high-up in the Republican Party quoted Mancuso as saying, at a recent political

gathering in the up valley, that he was definitely quitting his post. The politician was also quoted as remarking, "He never did much for the Republican party anyway."

His Honor gave the MIRROR his reasons for resigning as "Personal. I want to spend more time with my family. I want to do more engineering consulting, and have more peace of mind. You know, you get burned out after a while," he added.

"And," the Mayor noted, "it will make my wife a little happier!"

"May we quote you on that?" the MIRROR asked Mancuso replied, "Absolutely!"

Queried about the timetable for his announcement, Mayor Mancuso replied, "I want to get through this budget thing, and not drop it all into McMyne's lap." His reference was to Council President James M. McMyne, who will automatically become mayor upon Mancuso's quitting.

No reference was made to Mancuso's frequent brouhahas with Councilwoman Charlotte Moro and Councilman Michael

Tolerico over the running of the city. Ironically, Mrs. Moro, contacted at her Farview Street home, stated emphatically that "Although I expected it (the resignation) I really don't think he should resign now with the city in such bad shape."

"I have always thought the world of Fred, and I could never accuse him of stealing anything, only that there has been mismanagement of funds by the city."

Mrs. Moro, a Democrat who ran on a coalition ticket with Mancuso, and Tolerico,

have been frequent critics of the second Mancuso administration, and have often been at loggerheads with him both in Council Chambers and in the press.

In addition to his administrative duties for the city, Mayor Mancuso also owns an engineering and construction firm, and teaches math and engineering at Worthington Scranton Campus of Pennsylvania State University. He and his wife, the former Fran Lapera, reside with their two teen-age sons on upper Fallbrook Street.

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Jermyn's

Community House has been scene of some controversy lately. Hearing was held last week.

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MICU

Up-valley MICU will soon be operational. A meeting was held last week to discuss that operation.

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## Crime in Carbondale and surrounding towns drops

While the rest of the nation is suffering from rising crime rates, the City of Carbondale saw a decrease in the number of reported crimes between 1979 and 1980.

The latter figures were recently released. For Part One Offenses, the more serious crimes, Carbondale saw its total reach 184 in 1979.

That total dropped slightly to 181 in 1980. Part Two Offenses, the lesser crimes, had a total of 289 reported in 1979.

The year 1980 saw the number of Part Two Offenses drop to 259.

However, the percentage of Part Two cases cleared dropped from 47.8 percent in 1979 to 43.6 in 1980.

The percentage of cleared Part One (serious) cases also dropped — from 23.4 percent in 1979 to 13.3 percent in 1980.

For the more serious crimes, there were no

murders or manslaughter cases reported either year.

In 1979 there was one rape case reported which was cleared; two robberies, both cleared; six assaults, five cleared; 18 burglaries, seven cleared; 136 larceny (thefts including pickpockets, shoplifting, and purse-snatching), 24 cleared; 21 motor vehicle thefts, four cleared.

1980 Part One offenses saw: two assaults, one cleared; 26 burglaries, four cleared; 122 larceny, nine cleared; 24 motor vehicle thefts, nine cleared; and — under a new category — seven arson cases, with one cleared.

For Part Two crimes, Carbondale had, in 1979 (first figures represent number reported and second figures represent the number cleared):

Other assaults (simple or minor assaults),

2; 2; vandalism, 161, 18; narcotics (drug abuse), 2, 2; driving under the influence, 7, 7; liquor laws, 21, 21; drunkenness, 1, 1; disorderly conduct, 65, 60; all other offenses (bribery, blackmail, perjury, explosives violations, obscene violations), 30, 27.

The year 1980 saw: other assaults, 2, 1; stolen property, 2, 2; vandalism, 150, 7; weapons, 1, 1; narcotics, 5, 5; family offenses (offenses against the family and children), 2, 2; driving under the influence, 6, 6; liquor laws, 19, 19; drunkenness, 1, 1; disorderly, 63, 63; all other, 8, 6.

These figures were included in volumes of the "Crime in Pennsylvania" Uniform Crime Report.

Scott Township

Part One Offenses in Scott Township also

dropped from 1979 to 1980.

Figures released show a total of 61 reported cases (51 cleared in 1979 and 46 (10 cleared) in 1980).

That means that 15.9 percent of the total reported, while in 1980 21.7 percent were cleared.

The same trend developed for Part Two Offenses.

A total of 175 Part Two Offenses were reported in 1979, with 130 cases cleared for 74.3 percent cleared.

1980 had 164 cases reported and 62 were cleared — representing a total of 37.8 percent cleared.

Jermyn

Jermyn also followed the local trend, with crimes decreasing. However, the number of

cases cleared or solved increased from 1979 to 1980.

Figures released show a total of 81 reported cases (51 cleared in 1979 and 46 (10 cleared) in 1980).

That means that 15.9 percent of the total reported, while in 1980 21.7 percent were cleared.

The 1980 figures showed that there were 38 cases reported, with five cleared. The cleared cases represented 13.2 percent of the cases reported.

Part Two Offenses (the less serious crimes) showed Jermyn with 87 cases reported in 1979 and 33 cases cleared — 37.9 percent cleared.

By 1980 the total dropped to 71 cases, with 29 cleared — 40.8 percent cleared.

Mayfield

Mayfield experienced a slight increase in

Part One crimes from 1979 to 1980.

Mayfield reported 34 cases in 1979. Of those, five were cleared for a 14.7 percent rate.

By 1980 the total reported rose to 44, with but one cleared for a 2.3 percent.

For the less serious crimes, Mayfield reported 62 cases in 1979, with 29 cases cleared for a 46.8 percent.

By 1980, the number of cases declined to 51 reported, with 29 cleared.

This represented a 56.9 percent clearing figure — up from the previous year.

The booklet from which all these figures are taken warns: "While criminal offenses and related clearances by individual jurisdiction are reported in the appendages of this report, these listings are not intended to show who investigates the crimes or clears the offenses."



When the sun goes down in Carbondale town, crime is not normally on the citizens' minds. See story above. (Ros-Al)

## Will expansion kill hospitals' merger?

By NAN WATERS

To merge or not to merge...that is the question!

Sixteen-million-dollar expansion...aye, there's the rub!

Shakespeare aside, the proposed, long-awaited and much-discussed merger between Carbondale's two hospitals—Carbondale General and St. Joseph's, may have been dealt a death knell last week when St. Joseph's announced a \$16-million expansion program.

And officials of both hospitals aren't talking.

The only hospital-associated individual

who would comment for publication was William Farber, area businessman and president of Carbondale General's board of directors.

"My only comments would be that St. Joseph's never wanted to stay in the City of Carbondale. They wanted to go outside the city to build a new hospital. This new project of theirs was not done through proper channels...it did not go through the Health Systems Agency, and has not been approved by them. And...there are no local people involved."

Farber's reference was to the fact that St. Joseph's planned expansion includes a St. Louis, Mo., architectural firm, Hospital

Building and Equipment Company, a Philadelphia accounting firm, Peet, Marwick, Mitchell and Company, investment bankers from New York City, Merrill Lynch White

Weld Capital Markets Group, and a consulting service, Community Counseling Services of New York City, which is currently conducting a four-week preliminary study in the area to assess community resources and response to the proposed project.

General eyes proposal

"We are studying the future at the General," Farber continued, "and we will be in

the hospital business for many years to come. We will submit a proposal to the HSA within the next 90 days."

No one, however, will speculate as to whether or not the merger plan are down the tubes. Carbondale General Executive Director Richard A. Pascoe has stated in the past that he "cannot speak for his board."

No urge to merge?

The MIRROR, in its first edition Aug. 19, 1981, in a page-one story, posed the question, "Have both Carbondale hospitals lost the urge to merge?"

At that time, Sister M. Cephas Ryan,

IHM, St. Joseph's executive officer, stated, through her secretary, "The merger is still on."

Pascoe said in August, "As far as I know, no...the merger hasn't been dropped."

Yet two months and two days later, Sister Janet Jeffers, St. Joseph's director of planning and development, sends a new release to the local news media announcing an extensive expansion plan, which will include a four-story patient tower and a one-story ancillary services building.

Does this mean that St. Joseph's, which is for all intent and purposes landlocked geographically, expanding vertically, with an eye to withdrawing from the merger plans?

Sister Cephas has been, according to informed sources, a patient at her own hospital following what was reported to be major surgery.

Acting Administrator Michael E. Eckard, when queried this week by the MIRROR as to "Who's on first?" regarding the possible jointure of the two hospitals, replied succinctly, "I am not allowed to make any comment on that."

When questioned about Sister Cephas' condition, he did say that she had been released from St. Joseph's, was recuperating at the adjacent IHM Convent, and would be "back to work within a couple weeks." (See related stories on page 5.)